

Air 1 has become a very important radio station to me and to many who attend my church. The music is positive and uplifting, and provides a welcome respite from the commercial blather on so many of the other stations in the area. I have seen and heard the positive impact it has on the teenagers in the community: rather than talking about the latest 'death rap' or 'gangsta hip-hop', these kids are talking to each other about how much they appreciate that they can listen to 'cool' music that has a positive message.

Obviously, removing this from the airwaves to be replaced by another cookie-cutter commercial station seeking higher ratings and higher ad revenues by talking about sex and parties would not be the best option for a teen age group looking for something to do with their time. I'm not saying I think rap or hip-hop leads people directly down the road to hell. Rather, I would suggest that a cultural change toward better relationships with each other is not likely to be fostered by music that speaks of 'niggas' and 'whitey' fighting it out on the streets (I've heard essentially just this statement made in the lyrics of some of the hip-hop recently released, and this is too bad, because some of those artists are truly talented!)